

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 17, 2004. Claims 1 to 20 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 17 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant's undersigned representative wishes to make a record of a telephonic interview initiated by the Examiner on April 28, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that he was prepared to issue a double-patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,611,411 (Kurokami '411). In view of the current Office Action, which enters a rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,320,769 (Kurokami '769), it is clear that the Examiner has reconsidered this position. However, the Examiner is respectfully requested to make Kurokami '411 of record by listing it on a Form PTO-892.

Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1 to 20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,320,769 (Kurokami '769). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Newly-amended independent Claim 1 recites a power converting apparatus having a non-insulated converter and a non-insulated inverter to convert direct current power inputted from a power supply to alternating current power and to supply the alternating current power to a commercial power system which is grounded. The apparatus comprises a detector for detecting a ground fault of the power supply, and a controller for varying an input voltage of the converter and/or an intermediate voltage between the converter and the inverter so as to control a potential to the ground of the power supply while a switching operation of the inverter is continued.

Independent Claims 17 and 20 are apparatus and method claims, respectively, that correspond generally to the apparatus of independent Claim 1.

Claims 1 to 20 of Kurokami '769 are not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 17 and 20, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or suggest varying an input voltage of the converter and/or an intermediate voltage between the converter and the inverter so as to control a potential to the ground of the power supply while a switching operation of the inverter is continued.

Kurokami '769 relates to an interconnection power converter and power generation apparatus. With specific reference to Claim 1, Kurokami '769 recites a power converter that comprises a converter, an inverter, a switch, a detector, and a controller. More specifically, Claim 1 of Kurokami '769 recites that the controller controls operation of the converter, inverter and switch. When the detector detects a ground fault, the controller changes the switch to an open state, blocks a gate of the inverter, and holds an output voltage of the converter to be higher than a peak value of an alternate current voltage of the power system until at least said switch changes to the open state. The other claims of Kurokami '769 are also seen to teach this feature of the controller.

Thus, Claim 1 to 20 of Kurokami '769 are seen to teach that, among other things, the controller blocks the gate of the inverter when the detector detects a ground fault. On the other hand, the controller of the present invention varies an input voltage of the converter and/or an intermediate voltage between the converter and the inverter so as to control a potential to the ground of the power supply while a switching operation of the inverter is continued. As such, independent Claims 1, 17 and 20 of the present invention

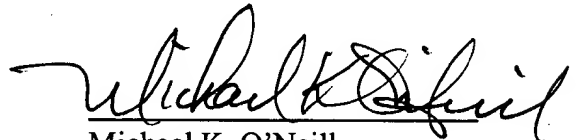
are seen to differ non-obviously from Claim 1 to 20 of Kurokami '769, and are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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